Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of chronic musculoskeletal disorders in elderly Brazilians: a systematic review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 31 October 2011

Reviewer: Ingris Peláez-Ballestas

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revision:
Please review the following comments and suggestions:

1.-I would like to know why authors did not include the following reference in the systematic review: Rodriguez-Senna E and cols. Prevalence of Rheumatic Disease in Brazil: A study using COPCORD approach. J Rheum 2004;31:594-97. Is seems to me, it is an important reference, that have included prevalence in elderly people in Brazil, besides they using a standardize methodology. I suggest to included those references or explain the exclusion.

2.-I don´t understand why the authors excluded rheumatoid arthritis for this systematic review. It is not clear the reason stated in the manuscript.

3.-There are some inconsistencies relate to the number of the studies included. In the page 6 said: 11 studies said: "...only four studies fulfilled the inclusion criteria. Seven additional eligible studies..." the total is 11, but in the figure 1 it said, "Studies included in the review (N=12)". Please, review that inconsistency.

4. - The table 1. I think is the most important data from the paper; I suggested to included Confidence Interval 95% for prevalence specially for chronic pain, and rheumatic disease.

5. - I seem to me some mistake in the page 10; it mentioned "lower limb pain" instead "low back pain". I suggested double-checking that paragraph.

6. -Why don´t the authors made a meta-analysis?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests below.